California GARDEN

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1988
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Poinsettia: Past, Present and Future

By Melba Davis
California Association of Nurserymen

The poinsettia joins the Christmas tree as a seasonal symbol that is recognized by all. The plant came to us from Mexico, where it is known as the "Flower of the Holy Night."

The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch, from which 90% of the known hybrids have come, reports that their favorite poinsettia story is about Pepita. The story goes ... On Christmas eve, long ago, little Pepita was very sad. More than anything else in the world, she wanted to give a fine gift to the Christ Child at the church service that evening. Yet, she was very poor and had no gift at all. Sorrowfully, she walked to church with her cousin Pedro. He tried to console her. He said, "Pepita, I am certain that any gift -- even the most humble — if given in love, will be more than acceptable in His eyes." so with tears in her eyes, Pepita gathered a bouquet of common plants from along the roadside, and entered the church. As she walked down the aisle toward the altar, she felt her spirits lift, and suddenly she forgot the humbleness of her gift, as she placed it at the feet of the Christ Child. Suddenly, the miracle of love turned these ordinary plants into a bouquet of the most brilliant, crimson blossoms. Yes, they were called "Flores de Noche Buena" -- Flowers of the Holy Night -- our poinsettias!

PHOTO BY PAT ZIEBARTH

Poinsettias used in display along the staircase of the Fine Arts Museum, Balboa Park, during Christmas at the Prado.

The past has certainly given us much to think about, but the present has much to offer too. You can enjoy the poinsettia as a house plant all year. Blossom color, as well as size, can vary widely — red, white, pink and variegated. Place your plant in a spot with good, natural light. Follow the watering and feeding schedule outlined in #4 below. If it deteriorates after the holidays, prune it back to 2-3 leaf nodes per stem. It will begin to grow again as it warms.

Start the following routine the first of next October to make it bloom again:

1. Put the plant in total darkness for 14 hours every night for 10 weeks (in a closet or a box from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m.). Even the smallest amount of light will affect the plant.
2. Night temperatures should be about 65 degrees, but never lower than 60 degrees.
3. Each morning, place it in or near a window where it will have 4-6 hours of direct sunlight.
4. Keep it moist and feed it either a slow release, or with a diluted regular food (per label instructions) at 3-4 day intervals.
5. Discontinue the darkness control when the plant starts to come into full bloom about December 1.

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VOLUME 79 ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1988

162 POINSETTIA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE . . . . . Melba Davis
164 HORTICULTURE CALENDAR
166 SHADE PLANTS . . . . . Pop Larsen, Builders Emporium
167 DATURA METLOIDES . . . . . Jo Casterline & Patt Sigg
167 CONSIDER A LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE . . . . . Calif. Assoc. of Nurserymen
168 HOW TO GROW MINIATURE ROSES . . . . . Dorothy Cralle & Laurie Chaffin
169 SWEET POTATO SPICE COOKIES . . . . . Charles Robinson
170 CYMBIDIUM PROPAGATION USING BACKBULBS . . . . . Robert D. Horwitz
171 FLORAL LIBRARY
172 CACTUS JELLY IS A GIFT GUARANTEED TO PLEASE . . . David L. Eppele
173 BEGONIA BIRTHDAY . . . . . Edalee Harwell
174 OUR NAMESAKE, PLUS 46 YEARS . . . . . Hazel Jacob
176 TYPES OF SHOVELS . . . . . Pop Larsen, Builders Emporium
178 THE AGAVES AND YUCCAS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA . . . . . Dorothy Dunn
180 BOOK REVIEWS . . . . . Barbara S. Jones & Mary Lou Orphey
182 NOW IS THE TIME . . . . . Compiled by Penny Bunker
186 INDEX FOR 1988
189 SARATOGA HORTICULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC. . . . . Lowell Cordas
190 OFFICER AND AFFILIATE LISTING

COVER

Susan Henry had one year of art training at Swain School of Design, and is currently working on designs for her own greeting card line. She has done illustrations, portraits, and animal sketches on an order basis. She can be contacted through San Diego Floral Association (619) 232-5762.

Did you notice the new mailing label on your magazine? San Diego Floral Association purchased a new computer this year as a gift from Mrs. Hoyt. Nancy Cottingham and Lynn Beyerle have been busy transferring all our mailing addresses and other pertinent information to this computer. Now we are starting to use the information. You will notice that the top line gives information about your subscription. It may read as follows:

DEC88 I 1986 Family G 1
This is interpreted below:

When you start with issue I, your subscription/membership expires with the receipt of the sixth copy, which would be the Nov/Dec issue, or issue VI., hence expires in DEC 88. The following would be expiration dates for issues I through VI:

1—DEC II—FEB III—APR IV—JUN V—AUG VI—OCT

DEC 88 is the month and year that this subscription/membership expires. I is issue number that it started with. We publish 6 issues per year. I = Jan/Feb; II = Mar/Apr; III = May/Jun; IV = Jul/Aug; V = Sep/Oct; VI = Nov/Dec. I means that your first issue was the Jan/Feb issue. 1986 indicates the year that you started with that issue. The Family shows what type of subscription/membership you have. It could be Family, Individual, Sustaining, Contributing, Life, Club Affiliate, Professional Affiliate, or Subscription.

The G will designate that it was given you as a gift. This is being added, but has not been put on all yet.

The number at the extreme right reflects the postal zone of your address.

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HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

*San Diego Floral Association Event

***FREE FLORAL CRAFTS INSTRUCTION WORKSHOP** Each Thursday 10-3 p.m. in San Diego Floral Library, Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They need seed pods and pine cones for the Christmas wreaths and trees. If you are creative and wish to participate, come each Thursday to Floral Office. Info: 232-5762.

OFFSHOOTOURS SPONSORS FREE one hour walking tour in Balboa Park every Saturday. Meet at 10 a.m. in front of Botanical Building at the lily pond. Topics include: 1st week, the heart of the park; 2nd week, palm walk; 3rd week, tree walk; 4th week, desert walk; If a 5th week, repeat 1st week's tour. Call 297-0289 for reservations.

OFFSHOOTOURS SPONSORS FREE two-hour walking tour of San Diego Zoo, focusing on the botanical side. Call (619) 297-0289 in advance for reservations.

October 12, 14

Palomar District of California Garden Clubs, Inc., Flower Show at North County Mall in Escondido. The beautiful flower arrangements and horticulture exhibits will be on display during mall hours.

October 14-23

Eighth Annual Los Angeles Garden Show "Gardens for All Seasons". at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. 10-6 p.m. Emphasis will be on growing possibilities in the Mediterranean climate of southern California. 3 acres will feature indoor and outdoor landscapes filled with plants and flowers representing various seasons. Trade Mart will have plants, gardening paraphernalia, and outdoor furnishings for sale. Admission $5 for adults, $3 for Seniors and ages 5 through 17. Parking free.

October 15, 16

25th Anniversary Show of Los Angeles Rose Society featuring more than 1,000 types of roses, plus new hybrids. Rosarians will answer questions and literature will be available. Miniature rose plants for sale. Descanso Gardens, La Canada Flintridge. Sat: noon-4 p.m.; Sun: 9-4:30 p.m.

October 15, 16

San Diego County Orchid Society's Fall "Mini" Show at Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego. Sat: noon-5 p.m.; Sun: 10-4:30 p.m. Free.

October 16

Gudrun Kimmel will present "Dried Arrangements Need Not Be Brown". He will demonstrate how to dry easy to find flowers and plants. Floral spray paint and a variety of dried material will be used in pottery and baskets for wall and table arrangements. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, 2 p.m.

***October 18**

San Diego Floral Association's Meeting at Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. 10 a.m. Meeting, followed by 11 a.m. talk and demonstration by Sylvester Murphy of M & W Bonsai. At noon there will be a salad potluck luncheon and social hour. Info: (619) 232-5762.

October 19

Palm Tree Management Seminar at Oxnard Civic Center Auditorium, Community Center Complex, 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA 93030 from 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fee $25. Includes seminar fee, refreshments, lunch, and certificate of completion. Registration required before Oct. 1, 1988 to Tree Management Seminar, U C Cooperative Extension, 800 South Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009.

October 19-20

Frost Protection Workshop, presented by the Cooperative Extension and the National Weather Service. University Club, U.C. Riverside. Wed.:

October 21-November 23

Artists of the Month — Nancy Turner and **Gina Somerlock** will display their works at Descanso Gardens, La Canada 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

October 22

Heartland African Violet Society's Annual Fall Show and Sale, Masonic Temple, 695 Ballentyne, El Cajon 9-5p.m.

October 22, 23

Lake Hodges Native Plant Sale at Ralph's Shopping Center Parking Lot, Pomerado Road and Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo. Sat: 9-4 p.m.; Sun: 9-1 p.m. All kinds of plants for sale, many natives, mostly drought resistant, very reasonably priced. Info: Mrs. Dorris Baur, 487-6614.

October 22, 23

South Coast Bonsai Association's Annual Bonsai Exhibit and Sale. Grasses and herbs, along with common deciduous and evergreen trees, will be presented in classic bonsai shapes. Demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, 9-5 p.m.

HORTICULTURISTS WANTED

The City of San Diego has vacancies in the Park and Recreation Department for Horticulturists. For information call (619) 236-6400. Apply in person to Employment Information Counter, City Admin. Bldg. Lobby, 202 "C"street.

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***October 26**

Basket Weaving Class at Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Call Marie Walsh 298-5182 for reservations and information. Classes are limited.

October 26-30

Country Cottage Crafts at South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula 9:30-4:30 p.m. More than 100 craftspeople and artists will sell handmade crafts. Personalized gifts and holiday decorations can be purchased.

October 29, 30

56th Annual Chrysanthemum Show by the Glendale Chrysanthemum Society featuring more than 3,000 blooms. Printed material on chrysanthemum care and growth will be available, and pots of flowering plants will be sold. Descanso Gardens, La Canada Flintridge, 9-4:30 p.m.

***November 2, 9, 16**

American Contemporary Flower Arranging Classes by Martha Rosenberg sponsored by San Diego Floral Association in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Call Marie Walsh, 298-5182 for reservations. Three all day lessons $25. Classes held in Casa del Prado, except Nov. 9 in Recital Hall.

November 5

Annual Native Plant Sale at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, CA 8-2 p.m. Specimen trees, shrubs, succulents, groundcovers, native California grasses, dudleyas, fremontias, manzanita, ceanothus, iris, sage, woolly blue curls, books, posters, gift items, and refreshments will be for sale. Experts will give advice on selection, planting and maintenance of plants on sale. Info: (714) 625-8767.

November 5, 6

San Diego Tropical Fish Society's 18th Annual Show at Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Sat: noon-6 p.m.; Sun: 9-4:30 p.m. Free.

November 5, 6

Ikebana Show at Descanso Gardens, La Canada. Ikebana International will present more than 70 displays of Japanese art of flower arranging. Demonstration in flower arranging each day. Sat: noon-5 p.m.; Sun: 9-4:30 p.m.

November 5, 6

National Chrysanthemum Society's 45th Annual Show "Chrysanthemums Across the Pacific and Around the World" at Red Lion Motor Inn, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA. Sat: 1-9 p.m.; Sun: 9-5 p.m. (916) 485-8478.

November 6

Water Conservation. Ron Brown of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will present a program on how to conserve water in your daily living. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, 2 p.m.

November 7

A Day at the World Flower Festival sponsored by the Village Garden Club of La Jolla. $38.00 includes "gold seats", a gourmet lunch at the Ambassador Hotel, and transportation from San Diego. Bus departs from Visitor's Center, Mission Bay Drive at 7:30 a.m. Stop in North County in front of Andersons at 8:10 a.m. 1015 Flower Show in Dialogue, "The Touch of Beauty". 11 a.m. Gourmet Lunch in Embassy Ballroom. Harriet Behrens will entertain by creating floral designs. 5:30 p.m. arrive San Diego. Mail check to Cheryl Hedgpeth, 4516 Adair, San Diego 92107.

November 7-December 5

UCLA Extension presents "Intensive Pruning Workshop" on Mondays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 2760 Boelter Hall, UCLA. A field trip will be on Sat., Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-noon. Instructor will be Michael Kristiansen, Fee. Details contact UCLA Division of Science. (213) 825-7093, P.O. Box 24901, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

November 12, 13

First Annual National Arts Week Festival and Show at Lindo Lake Park, 12660 Lindo Lane, Lakeside, 9 a.m. to dusk. All proceeds will go to charities and community recreation in Lakeside. Food, beverages, live music and entertainment both days.

November 12, 13

Gift Shop Open House will "Celebrate Christmas With Fragrance" at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. Vases, bulbs, herbs, spices, dip mixes, fragrant teas, soaps, potpourris and colognes for sale. Demonstrations 10-4 p.m. Sat. on dried flower arrangements, and on Sunday on planted baskets. Complimentary hot spiced cider and Christmas snacks add to early Holiday spirit. 9-4:30 p.m.

November 13

Hawaii. Gene Wilhelm, Regional Director, Southwest Office, Hawaii Visitor's Bureau will talk on our 50th state, Hawaii and its many wonders. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula. 2 p.m.

November 19, 20

Bonsai Show. The Santa Anita Bonsai Society will present more than 150 miniature trees created by members and students. Demonstrations held each afternoon. Bonsai, pots, books and other related materials for sale. Sat: 9-5 p.m.; Sun: 9-4:30 p.m.

November 20

Pinecone and Succulent Wreaths. Susan Seamans will demonstrate how to make these holiday wreaths. Some materials will be available. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula. 2 p.m.

November 20

Sumi-e Painting and Ikebana's 13th Annual Show at Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. 11-4 p.m. Free.

***December 2, 3, 4**

San Diego Floral Association's Annual Christmas Show at Christmas on the Prado, Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park. Fri: 5-9 p.m.; Sat: 11-9 p.m.; Sun: 11-4 p.m. Free.

December 3-11

Christmas Show "Country Christmas" at Descanso Gardens, La Canada Flintridge. Wreath making demonstrations, musical entertainment, and food available. 10-4 p.m.

December 3, 4
Camellia Show sponsored by the Pacific Camellia Society at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. Sat: 1-4:30 p.m.; Sun: 9-4:30 p.m. Info on camellia care and gibberellic acid applications. Miniatures and plate-size flowers such as japonicas, hybrids, and reticulatas can be seen.
December 4
Annual Christmas in Flowerland Bazaar, Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, 10-4 p.m. On sale will be many varieties of plants, jams and jellies, books, gift items, etc. Free admission. Info: (619) 436-3036.
December 5
All Day Craft Workshop "Holiday in the Garden" will provide ideas for Christmas gifts. Demonstrations to show how to make your own holiday crafts. Gift items for sale. Light refreshments available. South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula. 9-4:30 p.m.
December 6
La Jolla Garden Club Annual Christmas Tea, "A Touch of Mexico", Mexican Folk Dancers, Bake Sale, and Bazaar at La Jolla Woman's Club, 715 Silverado Street, La Jolla 1-3 p.m.
December 11
Queen Anne Cottage Open House, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. Rooms will be decorated with Victorian style holiday trimmings. Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia. 10-4 p.m.
December 11
Christmas Chorale at South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula. 2 p.m. The oldest men's choir in California, the all-male Ellis Orpheus Chorus, will entertain with holiday songs.
December 18
Christmas Concert by the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band in a medley of Christmas songs played by a 50 member orchestra conducted by Richard Schwalbe. 2 p.m.
***January 2, 1989**
Rose Parade Float Tour. Board bus 7:45 a.m. in back of Balboa Park organ pavilion parking lot. Leave 8 a.m. Lunch (on own) at Beatles. Return about 5:30 p.m. Members $15 - non-members $17. Contact Barbara Pruyne (619) 561-2436 for reservations.
January 26, 27, 1989
Xeriscape '89 Conference, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, San Diego. Info: (619) 670-3544.
February 2-5, 1989
National Direct Marketing Conference and Farm Conference '89 at the Oakland Hyatt Regency and Oakland Convention Center in California. Conference begins Thursday morning with farm and market tours. Over 50 exhibitors will display equipment and materials, 70 workshops and 8 special presentations are planned. Info: (916) 445-8614.

Shade Plants

By Pop Larsen
Builders Emporium

Shade plants can be among the most eye-pleasing members of your year-round garden. They're very helpful in finishing off those cool, shaded areas where we like to sit during the hot summer and early fall seasons. Some people might associate shade with dampness. Actually, shaded garden areas are more likely to be dry, since tree roots will take much of the moisture for themselves. Besides, overhanging branches are sometimes dense enough to prevent rain and frost from reaching the ground at all.

What Shade Plants To Get:

The "Bear's Foot Hellebore" (**Helleborus Foetidus**) is an evergreen perennial that grows to about two feet in height, after which it begins to spread laterally.

The lower part is a mound of beautiful dark green leaves. In winter and early spring the plant will produce a fountain of pale green bells faintly edged with dark purple. After a few months the bells will detach themselves and go to seed. The stalk dries, and should be pruned away at its base to allow the new growth to spread.

"Bear's Foot Hellebore" are easy to grow. The seeds sprout slowly but surely. They spread freely through "self-sowing" and can be dug up as volunteer seedlings for planting elsewhere.

Another shade plant worth having in your garden is the **Nandina Domestica,** also know as the "heavenly" or "sacred bamboo". Although it resembles a bamboo with cane-like stems and fine textured foliage, it isn't true bamboo, but a member of the barberry family.

This is a beautiful decorative plant because of its ornamental style, pointed oval leaflets and vivid color. The foliage is a pinkish bronze red, picking up purple and even deeper bronze tints in the fall and turning fiery crimson in winter. If the plant is exposed to some sun and frost during winter months, its colors will become even more vivid.

In late spring or early summer the "bamboo" produces pinkish or creamy white flowers. If you grow two or more nandina together, they produce red berries.

The "Sword Fern" (**Polystichum Munitum**) is native to the west and perhaps one of the most popular ferns grown here. It is symmetrical, of medium size and has evergreen fronds. You will find this fern versatile because it blends well with other plants in your gardens.

The Sword Fern is hardy and adaptable, but grows best in rich soil with ample water where it will grow large and lush.

DATURA METELOIDES

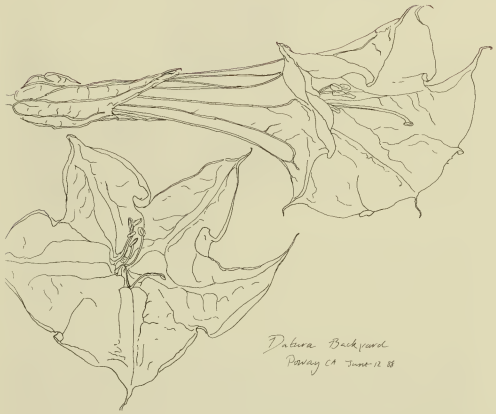

Illustration by Susan Hollister

By Jo Casterline & Patt Sigg

Sacred Datura some books call it. This exotic weed can be found in spectacular arrangements against the red rocks of Lake Powell, or along gravelly washes of the desert and dusty roadsides throughout the West. Its white blossoms tinged with purple are as alluring as a Georgia O'Keefe painting. Is it its beauty that makes it sacred or its narcotic properties used by the Indians in tribal ceremonies?

This ancient plant is native to Asia but has naturalized throughout the world. **Datura meteloides**, the species found in the southwest, is an annual with strong-scented leaves. It blooms all through the hot summer producing as many as 100 blossoms at a time which open at night and quickly wilt the next day. The round thorny fruits that follow are responsible for another of its names, Thorn Apple.

Datura was grown in England in 1599 from seeds received from Constantinople. Its narcotic properties were known to the British who used it for relieving coughs and asthma. Though this plant is still valuable medicinally it is very poisonous and when improperly prepared is lethal.

A third name, perhaps the most widely used is Jimson weed. This is a contraction of Jamestown where it was introduced to America with the first settlers. The plant gained notoriety because of the poisoning of many soldiers sent to stop the Bacon Rebellion in 1676.

The plant known as Brugmansia is also Datura and is a popular garden subject. It is fast growing and can be trained as a small tree. Expect frost damage and unattractive winter appearance. It will be worth it for the flowers, dangling angels' trumpets that appear in summer. It can be propagated from seeds and easily from cuttings. It comes in several colors. To view these plants visit Quail Gardens or Stallings Nursery in Encinitas.

Consider A Living Christmas Tree

By California Association of Nurserymen

Perhaps this is the year you decide to have a living tree for the holidays. While there are many trees that can be used this way, a trip to your local garden center will provide you the correct tree for your needs.

When you take this new addition home, remember that it was and is an outdoor plant that you will be placing indoors for a period of time. Be sure to follow these simple steps for a happy tree and a happy tree owner. The placement of plastic, several layers thick, over the area you intend to place your tree will protect the floor or carpet. If the plant is already in a container, this is fine but if it is in burlap, then you must obtain a container that will allow drainage. Remember that the tree, no matter how you purchase it, must not stand in water. At the same time, you do not wish to have the tree dry out completely so a happy medium must be found. The best solution is to adequately water the plant before you bring it indoors and then you will be able to maintain the moisture with a comparatively small amount of water each day.

A way of watering which is used by many is the addition of ice cubes to the soil. The slow melting of the ice will keep the soil moist through and through and ice does not have the impurities that tap water has.

The placement of the tree is important. It should receive air and light. This means that it must not be by the fireplace, no matter how good it looks there, nor under a heat vent. The length of time indoors varies as to the temperature of the room. It is wise to consider one week to be about maximum although a cool location might work for up to 10 days.

Decorations are important to us all and the living tree can easily handle the miniature lights and also lightweight ornaments. You can string popcorn or cranberries, tie ribbons or put a tinsel garland around it. When the holiday is past, move it outdoors and wash it down completely. Keep it in a container or plant it in the ground.

How To Grow Miniature Roses

By Dorothy Cralle and Laurie Chaffin

LOCATION: Miniature roses are easy to grow. They are completely hardy and grow outdoors in a good garden soil. They require the same amount of light as the larger roses. Plant in full sun, semi-shade or in a location of morning or afternoon sun. Select a well drained area that does not stay wet after rains; good drainage is important. A special location for miniatures exclusively, in a square, a circular bed, or bordering a walk is charming. Planted in the foreground of a larger bed of floribundas or hybrid teas make a rose garden complete.

PLANTING: For each plant in the garden, prepare the soil by adding plenty of humus or mulch in the planting hole. Dig each hole 12 in. wide and 12 in. deep. Discard 1/3 of the original soil before adding the mulch and mix well. Include a small handful of rose food, bone meal and soil sulphur if your area is alkaline. Space the minis about 12-14 in. apart. Do not disturb the root ball. Place the top of the root ball one inch below the surface of the ground. Press the soil firmly around the plant and water well. A top mulch 1 in. deep is advisable to keep the surface around the plant cool and moist.

WATERING: Miniature roses require an abundance of water. They need the soil to be continuously damp but must not be soggy below the root area as this will cause the roots to rot. Do not allow the plant to dry out between waterings; the fine feeder roots near the surface will be destroyed. Overhead watering is very beneficial. It discourages many insects from making your roses their home and also will help destroy mildew spores and keep them from spreading. A clean plant is a healthy plant.

FERTILIZING: Miniatures growing in the ground outdoors need about one tablespoon of rose food every two months during their active growing season. The fertilizer should be sprinkled around the plant 3 or 4 in. away from the crown and watered in. Time release fertilizer may also be used. Liquid fish or Miracle Grow for roses is excellent but made to be applied more often..

PRUNING: Do a light pruning all year long as needed. Pruning encourages the plants to develop new growth and send up new branches from beneath the soil level. Keep the plants in a round shape, never tall or leggy. At dormant season, prune back to 6 in. height and remove any dead branches.

INSECTS AND DISEASE: Spider mites are miniature roses' worst enemy but can be controlled by a weekly washing of the plants. Remove any yellow leaves and keep the soil surface free of debris. Orthene spray used 3 or 4 times at weekly intervals will rid the plants of a severe infestation. Take care to see that the spray reaches the underside

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of the leaves. Aphids can be controlled using plain water or an all purpose insecticide. For mildew and blackspot use Funginex or a rose spray designated for these fungi. Miniature roses are particularly disease resistant and are normally healthy plants.

WINTER PROTECTION: In areas having severe winters, place a mound of soil over the crown of the plants covering up the branches about three inches. Another method is placing a large can, which has both ends removed, over the plants. Fill with straw or wood shavings. Use either covering after plants have gone dormant and before the ground freezes. No winter protection is needed in milder climates.

POT CULTURE: Choose a pot which will be large enough to give ample room for good root development. Usually 6 in. wide for the tiny varieties and 8-10 in. wide for varieties which grow over 8 in tall. A drainage hole in the pot is a must. Use a good packaged planting mix as these preparations are insect and disease free. A good mix can be made using equal parts of good clean topsoil, sand or perlite, and peat moss or ground decomposed fir bark. Without disturbing the root ball of the miniature rose, place it in the pot so that the crown of the plant will be 1½ in. below the top of the pot. Fill in with planting mix up to 1 in. from the top of the rim and firm gently. This will leave plenty of area to make watering sufficient and complete. Keep soil in the pots well watered and do not allow the soil to dry out between waterings. Lots of sunshine is required, at least one half day of full sun. Liquid fish is excellent for pot culture and can be applied as often as every 10 days to 2 weeks. Time release capsules buried in the soil or sprinkled on the surface are good. Rose food applied in too large amounts will burn the roots of minis and it is best not to use the combination rose food plus systemic insecticide for pot culture.

INDOORS: Miniature roses may be grown indoors in slightly smaller pots in a sunny window. The most important thing is ample light; if not enough light the leaves will yellow and the new growth will be very light green, soft and weak. Humidity is very important. The air is much dryer indoors. It is best to place your pots on a tray filled with gravel and water. The pots should not come in contact with the water but be sitting a little above it on top of the gravel. A fine mist of water sprayed on the foliage is very beneficial or wash off the foliage in the sink. A good aerosol spray for house plants used weekly will keep your roses insect free. Liquid house plant food for blooming plants will keep them growing and blooming well.

UNDERLIGHTS. Special fluorescent grow light fixtures designed for indoor plants are also effective. A tray of gravel and water is necessary. To get best results, the lights should be on at least 16 hours daily and be placed only 4 to 6 inches above the plants.

"Pixie Treasures", a miniature rose nursery, was started 18 years ago as a hobby, and is a mother and daughter opration. They sell retail and mail order. They have a hybridizing program which produced two new varieties last year, with new ones coming along for the near future. It is located in 4121 Prospect Avenue, Yorba Linda, CA 92686. (714) 9943-6780.

SWEET POTATO SPICE COOKIES
By Charles Robinson

1-3/4 cup mashed sweet potatoes
1-1/2 cup light brown sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine
2 eggs
2-3/4 cup flour
1 tb. baking powder
1 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp each cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup chopped nuts

Beat together sweet potatoes, sugar, butter and eggs. Sift flour, baking powder, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and salt together. Add to sweet potato mixture, stir in nuts. Drop in round teaspoons on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes.

Charles Robinson is known for growing sweet potatoes. His article on "The Old Sweet Potato Patch" is in Nov/ Dec 1986 issue of California Garden.

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Cymbidium Propagation Using Backbulbs

Story and illustration by
Robert D. Horwitz

The cymbidium orchid life cycle follows that of its parent, starting as a small nubbin growing out from the bottom of the backbulb, which has been carefully removed from the parent plant after it has completed its life cycle of growing a set of leaves, expanding into a bulb, sending out a spike of flowers, and then slowly losing both the flowers, and then the leaves, leaving the backbulb attached to the parent plant at its base where the root system spreads out into the substrate. This growing cycle takes about three years.

Propagating cymbidiums from backbulbs is a richly rewarding experience, providing that you have the patience to wait out the time it takes to grow into a flowering state, and provide the plant with the environment which encourages its growth. To start out, select backbulbs which have completely finished shedding all of their leaves, and come from a healthy plant. The eventual blooms will replicate those of the original plant, as this method of propagation does not involve pollination. The best time to obtain these backbulbs is when you are re-potting a plant, and can cut the bulb out easily without damage to either the whole plant, or the bulb. Remove it with a sharp knife, being very careful not to cut into the incipient buds that are barely visible at the bottom of the backbulb. Allow the cut to heal for a day or two in the open air.

Prepare a mixture of fine bark and sand for the potting medium. This kind of mixture will allow moisture retention without sogginess, and will leave an easily penetrated soil for root development. Fill a four-inch pot three-quarters full with the soil mixture. Wet it thoroughly. Dip the bottom of the backbulb into plant hormone powder before putting it into the pot. Insert the bulb halfway up its height into the potting mixture in the center of the pot. The hormones will speed up the rooting and leaf growth.

After growth starts, use a small amount of high nitrogen fertilizer to encourage leaf growth. When the plant has developed a new bulb and a set of leaves, means that the rooting systems have developed also. It is time, then, to transplant it into an eight-inch pot using fir bark and some leaf mold as the substrate soil. With luck and careful attention to water, sufficient sun, and the proper fertilizer schedule, you may have your first blooms in another year. When new leaf growth starts from the base of the bulb, it appears as a roundish green sprout with a pointed, fairly sharp, tip. The flower spike appears in a like manner, except it will appear in the late autumn, have a more roundish shape, and the tip will be more fleshy and softer. Cymbidiums do not require a lot of care; in fact, too much attention may do more harm than good. Growing in a fifty-fifty sun/shade combination seems to be the ideal amount of light for good flower production.

Floral Library

Have you visited our San Diego Floral Association Library lately? We receive many new books from publishers as soon as they are available, and after being reviewed in CALIFORNIA GARDEN, are placed in our library. The library also has many excellent reference books, and a complete set of CALIFORNIA GARDEN from 1909 to the present. Many current floral magazines are also available to be read. Come in and browse through our library and learn all about culture, history, and all phases of horticulture. The Floral library is open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Now we are trying to have it open on weekends, if we can find persons to volunteer to man it then. The Floral librarian is available on Tuesdays, and on the second Saturday of each month. If you would like to volunteer your services to open the library on weekends, even just one or two times a year, it would be appreciated. Check with the office and sign up for the date which best suits you.

Does anyone have a clue? Two books have strayed from the SDFA library. They are **The MacMillan Book of Orchids**, by Jorn Pinske and **Arranging Everlasting Flowers** by Mary Newnes. Any information gratefully received.

SDFA's library has recently bought a copy of the Andersen Horticultural Library's **Source List of Plants and Seeds**, 1987. This is a comprehensive listing of nurseries in the U.S. and Canada. It will be helpful for location of hard-to-find items.

SDFA's library is constantly acquiring new books. A useful new arrival is **The Mail Order Gardener;** a complete guide to sources of flowers, vegetables, trees, shrubs, tools, furniture, greenhouses, gazebos and everything else a gardener could wish for, by Hal Morgan. The library also has a large file of seed catalogs and lists from mail order houses and nurseries.

Four new books have been added to the SDFA Library: "Guide to Cacti and Succulents"; "Cactus Identifier" by Helmut Bechtel; and two titles by John Pilbeam — "Instant Guide to Healthy Cacti", and "Instant Guide to Healthy Succulents".

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION'S LIBRARY (SDFA), Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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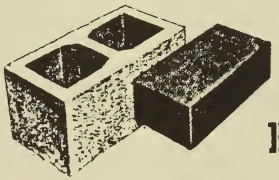

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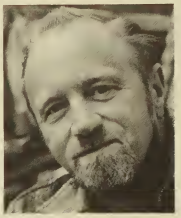


By David L. Eppele

I probably shouldn't be mentioning this, but Christmas is just around the corner. Just for the fun of it, why not gather a few buckets of the red seed pods of prickly pear cactus and make some cactus jelly to send to friends and relatives for Christmas gifts?

The red jelly will make a perfect addition to the holiday meal table, and believe me, your efforts will be applauded!

Here's an easy way to juice prickly pears for jelly. Pick the fruit with kitchen tongs. Be careful of brushing against the cactus, because the slightest touch will dislodge the tiny spines into your hand, arm or clothing.

Should you drop one of the fruits, or tunas, don't pick it up with your bare fingers. Use the tongs. Take your time. Quick movements around these plants always seem to result in some part of your anatomy being invaded by hundreds of small spines.

If this should happen, carefully cover that area with a layer of white glue. Allow the glue to dry, and peel it off. Nearly all of the spines are removed and those few remaining spines can be dealt with using a pair of tweezers.

Gather and wash a bucket or grocery sack of the tunas. Use the tongs to transfer the fruits into a large kettle. Add about an inch of water to the kettle and place a lid over it.

Boil the fruit gently until it is softened. This takes about 45 minutes. After it starts cooking, use a potato masher to make sure each fruit is broken open. Continue cooking for another 10 minutes until all of the fruit is tender.

Pour the tunas and juice into a cloth bag, or strain it through several thicknesses of cheesecloth. Any small spines, the seeds, and skin of the tunas will remain in the cheesecloth. Great food for pigs or chickens.

Now you have about a gallon of cactus juice. To make never-fail prickly pear jelly, boil four cups of juice along with a package of powdered pectin. Add five or six cups of sugar and bring this to a boil.

Add a little lemon juice for an interesting taste. This makes a lot of jelly. Take your time, and don't try to cook double or triple batches of jelly.

Pour the liquid into sterilized jelly jars and wither seal them with melted paraffin, or cap the jelly jars and put them in the freezer. That's all there is to it.

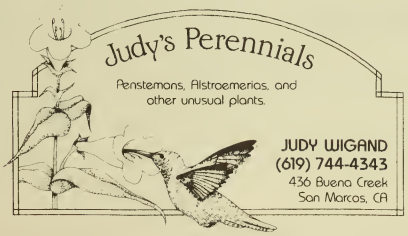
When you send off your care package to friends or relatives, don't forget to take out a jar of cactus jelly, label it and send it along. That little jar will keep you in good standing with even the grouchiest of relatives for the year.

Pure juice of prickly pear fruit can be stored in a freezer container for later use. Here at Arizona Cactus, we freeze the pure juice in plastic soda bottles.

When a school tour of our garden is on the calendar, we grab a bottle of pure cactus juice, remove the cap and thaw it in the microwave. We then pour the juice into a gallon jar, add ½ cup of lemon juice and three cups of sugar.

We then fill the jar with water, stir and store it in the refrigerator to cool. When the bus-load of students arrives, each is served a small cup of cactus juice. For more information, call 432-7040.

David L. Eppele is president of Arizona Cactus and Succulent Research, Inc., a botanical garden at Bisbee, Junction, Arizona.



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Begonia Birthday

By Edalee Harwell

World War II raged in all its horror that August day of 1943 when the members of the Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society met at the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens to celebrate their first anniversary. Rosecroft was the Point Loma home of the late A.D. Robinson, who originally selected this location in the early 1900's because he believed the climatic conditions to be ideal for his hobby of begonia culture. After his more than forty years of collecting, hybridizing, gathering and perfecting, the collection was acknowledged to be the finest, and most extensive, in the world, not excepting the one at Kew Gardens, London. No less an authority than Professor L.H. Bailey of Ithaca, New York, author of "Encyclopedia of Horticulture", claimed that Alfred D. Robinson knew more about begonias than any person in the Western Hemisphere. Dedicated to begonias, Mr. Robinson was also lecturer, writer, and total garden enthusiast. Charter member of the San Diego Floral Association, he was the first editor of its **California Garden** magazine, which at 79 can claim to be the oldest continuously published garden magazine in the United States.

Addressing the fledgling garden group that day in 1943, President Alice Clark spoke as follows:

"We are another product of the Rosecroft Gardens, created by A.D. Robinson. Let's try to live up to the promise of that name. Enjoy this day here. See Rosecroft with your hearts as well as your minds and eyes. It may not always exist for us in reality as it does today, but the qualities that make it what it is — the vision and patience to work out dreams — are our heritage."

"In this situation (of war), it is even more important that garden groups carry on, not only to remind the world that there is hope in living beauty, but to preserve for our children the progress that has been made, and even to add to it. What we accomplish is not as significant as the fact that we enjoy working together."

"It is the trials and errors that give us that priceless ingredient called experience. Whether we are beginners, or old hands, the horizon is always far beyond."

Although Mr. Robinson's Rosecroft Begonia Gardens have not survived, Alice Clark's words proved prophetic in other happier ways as well. Garden people thrive. In 1976 the American Begonia Society held its National Show in San Diego, hosted by local begonia groups. In 1985-86 San Diegan Margaret Lee was elected President of the American Begonia Society, and the 54th Annual Convention and Begonia Show was again held here. The convention and show were dedicated to the memory of "our beloved Alice Clark, Eva Kenworthy Gray recipient (a hybridizing award), superb artist, and author of "Begonia Portraits."

August 1988 marked the 46th birthday of the Alfred D. Robinson San Diego Branch of the American Begonia Society. Margaret Lee and Honored Speaker, Irene Nuss, were only two of the many present at the celebration whose hybridized begonias joined the hundreds of Robinson introductions to enrich the hobby for gardeners all over the world, and whose talents and enthusiasm spread the fame of San Diego as a Garden City.

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Our Namesake, Plus 46 Years

By Hazel Jacob

Let me introduce you to our namesake, Alfred D. Robinson, born on October 9, 1866 in Walton, England. He studied to become a minister, but instead, set sail for California in the United States of America, at age 21, to raise cattle. Leaving the cowboy life, he travelled to San Francisco where he met and courted Marion James Duncan, the only daughter of Hilarian and Charlotte Duncan, a wealthy couple of the city. In 1895, they were married, and remained in San Francisco until after the death of Mrs. Robinson's parents. In 1902, they moved to a cottage in Ocean Beach while they looked for land in the area to build their home. A choice location was selected at 510 Silvergate Avenue, where they built a large residence. Adjoining the home he built a huge lath house. After much researach, he started with 4 foot walls to keep out the drafts on the floor level. He next extended the roof beyond the sidewalls to give an area to grow vines that scrambled up and over the roof for shade.

Much of the soil and water proved to be alkaline, and since begonias like acid soil, he travelled many miles to the country to gather leafmold from oak trees to work into his garden.

Now the stage was set ready to be furnished. Tree ferns were used to add interest. It became like a home with a series of rooms, where you walked from one to another through wide entrances. You hardly noticed the supporting posts, as they were concealed with the placement of plants. Hanging baskets, winding paths, a rock grotto with a circular area surrounded with ferns, and rex begonias, red, yellow and pink daubs of color from the palette of nature placed with the eye of an artist. In the center was a spacious area where lounge chairs and table were arranged for tea or bridge, a delightful spot for entertaining.
Marion Robinson's inheritance permitted the family to live comfortably, and to travel.

Rare begonias from South America, India, Brazil, Ecuador, and other distant lands thrived in the botanical laboratory. The garden contained 225 kinds of fuchsias. Shading one section of the lathhouse was a tall pine which grew from a seed brought to California in Stewart Edward White's vest pocket when he returned from Theodore Roosevelt's expedition in Central Africa. Chinese wisteria branches eventually spread for 50 feet.

In a feature story by Connie Bower, of the A.D. Robinson Branch, she told of R.F. Paine, editorial writer for the San Diego Sun, who lived across the street from A.D. R., as he was called. They used to board a launch at the foot of H Street and were carried to the Loma Portal dock. My father knew him as the man of the hill, that also raised the Rosecroft strain of Barred Rock Chickens, which he exhibited from Los Angeles to New York.

In 1907 Robinson was one of the founders of the San Diego Floral Association, and was the first editor of it's publication, "California Garden" in 1909. Alfred Robinson had great interest in plant shows. He encouraged the establishment of botanical gardens and street tree plantings, and assembled plants from all over the world for the first exposition grounds in Balboa Park.

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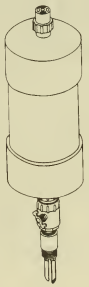

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They started meeting in people's homes with evening parties. The garden of the Frevert home was gaily decorated with Japanese lanterns lighted with candles before electricity was available. These trips were made by the Robinsons in a buggy to the Frevert home on upper Fifth Avenue, according to Connie Bower.

In 1931 a group of 7 Long Beach people formed the California Begonia Society, and soon looked to the neighboring towns for other begonia enthusiasts. Among them was Alfred D. Robinson of Point Loma. On June 3, 1934, he invited them for its regular monthly meeting at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens. After a picnic lunch, Robinson told the group that he felt the Begonia Society should be shared with the whole country, and suggested a name change to the American Begonia Society, according to Rudolf Ziesenhenne. With over 100 members present, the motion was made and passed. Robinson contributed 36 articles to the early California Society Bulletins and The Begonian, from February 1934 until his death in 1942.

The Los Angeles Sunday Times gave a feature story "Begonias Have Been This Man's Hobby For Over Forty Years" Sunday, July 28, 1929. The San Diego Union gave a full page September 1, 1940. Renown horticulturists sought him out for advice, but he just called himself simply a gardener that likes the feel of the earth in his hands. Yet he hand pollinated a begonia, and developed 100 new types. He never sold any plants or seed until the late 1920's, though he gave many away. Rosecroft Begonia Gardens became internationally known, and many of his plants were shared with the world at large.

After the death of Alfred D. Robinson, Alice Clark gathered together friends and other club members at the Rosecroft Begonia Garden where his second wife, Annie, remained. Here the Alfred D. Robinson Branch of the American Begonia Society was formed with Alice Clark as the Charter President.

At the August 1987 — 45th Birthday Party held in the home of Mrs. Robert Curtis, a First Anniversary letter was read by the President, Mrs. George Jacob.

Note: Hazel Jacob, the present President of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch of the American Begonia Society, read this information to the Society at their 46th Birthday Party on August 9, 1988 at the home of Juana Curtis in San Diego. She compiled the information using the A.D. Robinson History Book, "The Begonian" — Sep/Oct 1984, page 94, and Alice Clark's "Begonia Portraits" as references.

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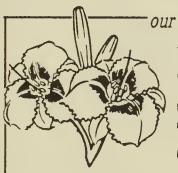

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TYPES OF SHOVELS

By Pop Larsen
Builder's Emporium

The method of construction of a shovel will determine the durability of a shovel.

Three types of construction are:

SOLID SHANK

The blade and shank are formed and rolled from a block of steel, so that the portion of the shank near the blade is solid. The handle is driven into the open part of the shank until it hits the solid portion. This type of shovel is considered an industrial shovel. This shovel is made for everyday hard use and is heavy compared to other types of construction.

CLOSED BACK

The blade and socket are stamped out of a sheet of steel forming a crimp in the blade for added strength and creating a hollow socket.
A steel plate is then welded on the blade back covering the hollow made by the crimp. This plate prevents dirt from accumulating in the shovel back. This shovel is used primarily for industrial use when strength is needed, but is not as heavy as the solid shank.

HOLLOWBACK

The blade and socket are stamped out of a sheet of steel forming a crimp in the blade for added strength and creating a hollow socket. This is the type you should use for homeowner use. It is strong enough for gardening, and doesn't have excess weight.

Shovels can have a long or D-Handle. A long handle gives better leverage. A D-handle is easy to maneuver.

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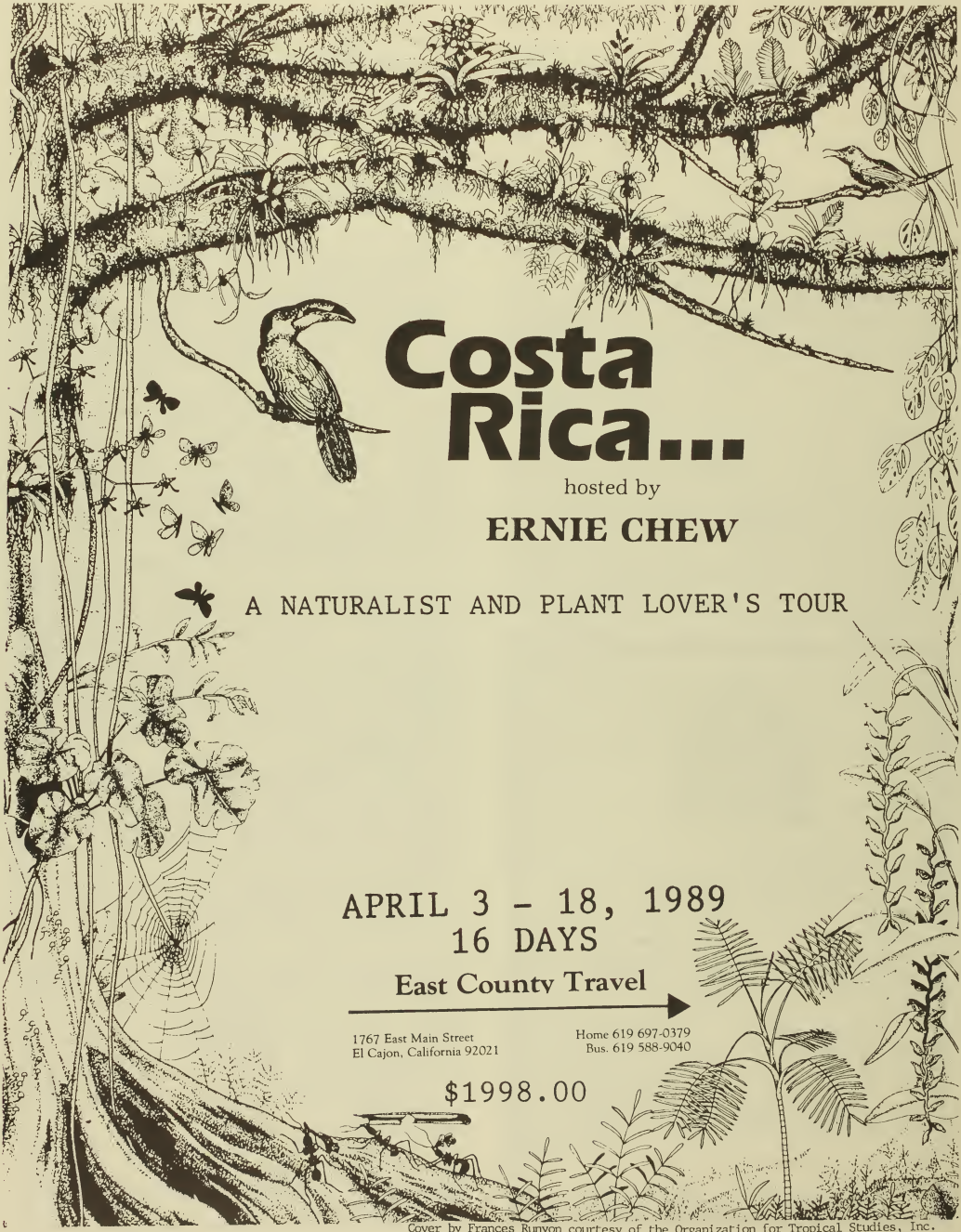

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The Agaves and Yuccas of Baja California

By Dorothy Dunn

The peninsula of Baja California, with its arid conditions and geological isolation, supports an amazing number of endemic plants in many different families and genera. The family **Agavaceae** is no exception. Huge populations of both **Agaves** and **Yuccas** form a distinctive and characteristic part of the total landscape over enormous areas of the peninsula, as well as most of the off-shore islands. Almost all of these species are endemic to Baja.

Two major complexes, the **Agave deserti** complex and the **A. cerulata** complex, make up a large proportion of these populations. However, the **A. cerulata** group inhabits primarily what is known as the "upland maritime environment", where the desert climate is tempered by frequent fogs and ocean breezes, whereas the **A. deserti** complex belongs to the hot, arid continental desert. The geographic distribution of these two species is not known to overlap.

Another significant species in northern Baja California is **Agave Shawii.** This is the first Agave, and perhaps the first succulent plant, to be encountered after crossing the border at Tijuana. Its bright green, compact, symmetrical rosettes with brilliant yellow-gold inflorescences dominate many hillsides and coastal bluffs in northern Baja. Its range extends to well south of El Rosario, where it is gradually replaced by its subspecies **goldmaniana.** This is a more massive plant in every way than **A. Shawii.** It also occurs further south and more inland; its type locality is at the historic Tinaja Yubay, one of the few sources of sweet water in this arid central part of the peninsula.

In southern Baja California, the Sierra de la Giganta is home to three handsome and rather uncommon species. Here **Agave gigantensis** occupies a small, very rugged and relatively inaccessible habitat, ranging in elevation from 2,000 to 5,000 feet. **A. aurea** forms scattered and often massive populations on the lava fields of the western Sierra de la Giganta, mostly at elevations of 1,000 to 3,500 feet. Although it ranges south into the Cape Region, it occurs only rarely on the sandy Magdalena Plain. **A. sobria** is a variable species which occurs southward from Calmalli, with the type locality being the mesas above Comondu. It grows near Mission San Javier in the Sierra de la Giganta. It has two subspecies, ssp. **Roseana** and ssp. **frailensis.**

On the Magdalena Plain, home of the elusive "Creeping Devil" (**Machaerocereus eruca**), large colonies of **Agave datylio** var. **vexans** are found. In appearance, this Agave is unique on the peninsula. It is one of the smallest of the Baja **Agaves;** it is a bright chartreuse-green in color, and the plants have such widely-spaced offsets that they often appear to be solitary specimens rather than clusters.

Possibly the rarest of the Baja California **Agaves** is **Agave margaritae,** a small, compact, caespitose plant which occurs only on Magdalena Island off the Pacific coast in southern Baja. Another island endemic is **A. sebastiana** from Cedros Island, where it grows in association with several other rare endemics including **Ferocactus chrysacanthus, Cochemiea pondii,** and the recently-discovered **Dudleya pachyphytum.**

Agave promontorii and **A. capensis** are endemic to the mountains of the Cape Region. **A. promonterii** is a massive plant — probably the largest of the Baja Agaves — and seems to grow best at higher elevations of about 3,000 to 6,000 feet where better moisture conditions prevail. Since it does not offset, it has remained somewhat rare. **A. capensis** is a smaller, clustering species which usually grows on granitic slopes from sea level up to about 1,000 feet. It was originally known as **A. brandegee.**

Agave moranii, from the eastern slopes of the Sierra San Pedro Martir in northern Baja, is named for its discoverer, Reid Moran, and closely resembles **A. deserti** ssp. **pringlei** from the San Matias Pass region. These two Agaves occasionally hybridize.

While there are about 20 species, subspecies, and varieties of **Agave** in Baja California, most of them are not well-known botanically, nor are they very common in cultivation. The best, most complete and detailed reference to date is Howard Scott Gentry's The Agaves of Baja California (1978), which was later incorporated into his monograph The Agaves of Continental North America (1982). The genus is divided into two natural subgenera, **Littaea** and **Agave,** and in these two works Dr. Gentry further divided it into 20 groups. Only four of these groups - **Deserticolae, Campaniflorae, Umbelliflorae,** and **Datyliones** - are represented in Baja California.

Throughout history, the most important and widespread native uses of **Agaves** have been for food, drink, and fiber. Many other lesser but equally interesting and ingenious uses have been enumerated by Dr. Gentry in his works on Agave.

Only four species and subspecies of Yucca occur in Baja California. Two of these — **Yucca Whipplei** and **Y. schidigera** — are also native to San Diego County. The other two — **Y. Whipplei** ssp. **eremica** (formerly **Y. peninsularis**) and **Y. valida** — are Baja endemics. However, the range of these four plants encompasses the entire peninsula and many of the off-shore islands.

Yucca Whipplei is primarily a northern Baja species, but is occasionally seen at higher elevations almost as far south as San Ignacio. In the Sierra de San Francisco, northwest of San Ignacio, there is a spectacular form which takes on a wine-red to purple coloration; whether this is due to something in the soil or to the fact that the area had not experienced any rainfall for a very long time is a matter for speculation. This is a solitary stemless plant which, like all **Agave** species, dies after flowering. Its subspecies **eremica** is a very attractive, clustering plant which occurs further south — dense populations can be seen from south of El Rosario to the vicinity of San Borja.

Yucca schidigera (formerly **Y. mohavensis**) is another southern California native which occurs in northern and central Baja, usually below 5,000 feet. The native Indians had many usages for this plant, including food, fiber, soap, and laxatives. It is a medium-sized shrub (to about 10 feet) with a woody trunk and curling fibers along the leaf edges.

Yucca valida ("Datilillo") is a tree; it bears a superficial resemblance to **Y. brevifolia**, the "Joshua Tree" of the southwestern United States. However, it is a Baja endemic and probably has the widest geographical range of any of the peninsular Yuccas. According to Edmund Jaeger "It flourishes from the northern parts of the mid-peninsula desert to the Cape Region, growing in greatest abundance in the deep-soiled valleys of the Vizcaino plains, where it may form extensive forests. It often constitutes impressive features of the landscape; especially when growing in thickset stands or "jungles" with the 'cirio' and long-stemmed, organ-pipe cactus", etc. In the vast, bleak expanse of the Vizcaino Desert surrounding Guerrero Negro it is the dominant plant over a huge area; here the plants can reach a height of 10 meters, and they all have a decidedly eastward slant due to constant buffeting by the salt-laden winds off the Pacific Ocean. In some places they are completely shrouded by the trailing lichen **Ramalina reticulata** and masses of **Tillandsia recurvata.** The rootstock is called **Amole** and is used by the natives for making soap. The trunks are frequently used for fencing, and often take root and start to grow again. The creamy white flowers have an odor of dill.

The **Agaves** and **Yuccas** of Baja California comprise such an integral and characteristic part of the total flora that it would be hard to imagine the peninsula without them. The natural and intrinsic harmony which exists between these plants and all other life forms on the peninsula would be impossible to duplicate in any artificial or contrived manner. The end result is a total landscape, unique in every way, whose beauty is delicate, finite, and irreplaceable.

Literature consulted:

Coyle, J., and Roberts, N.C.
A Field Guide to the Common and Interesting Plants of Baja California

Gentry, Howard S.
The Agave Family in Sonora
The Agaves of Baja California
The Agaves of Continental North America

Jaeger, Edmund
The North American Deserts

Wiggins, Ira
Flora of Baja California

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Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

PELARGONIUMS by David Clark. 1988. Timber Press, Portland, OR 97225. 122pp, 7 1/2" x 9 3/4", hardcover, $19.95 ($3.00 shipping).

This excellent book is another of the Kew Gardening Guides. Pelargoniums, commonly known as Geraniums, are a favorite, and easy-to-grow Southern California plant. Over 200 species and cultivars are described, and many are illustrated with color photographs. Full information is given on propagation, pests and diseases, and cultivation.

The author gives clear instructions on how to grow these plants in containers and has some unique uses for the containers.

This is a well-written, concise, accurate book on this popular plant.

LILACS, The Genus Syringa by John L. Fiala. 1988. Timber Press, Portland OR 97225. 372 pages, 8 1/2" x 11 1/2", hardcover. $59.99 (3.00 postage).

Lilacs are native to mountain regions where cold weather is needed to set the buds. Recent experiments show that they will grow in regions where frost and drought are minimal.

Father Fiala's book is the first comprehensive one on lilacs. It covers taxonomy, history, cultivation, landscape use, propagating, diseases, pests, etc. Over 400 photographs, 398 in color, and line drawings are included.

Lilacs do grow in San Diego County. This book should be helpful to gardeners.

THE GENUS CYCLAMEN by Christopher Grey-Wilson, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England (Timber Press, Portland, OR 97225), 1988. 147 pages, 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover. $28.95 ($3.00 shipping).

Cyclamen are charmng, colorful plants with a long flowering season. Although it is a small genus with only 19 species, one of the species **Cyclamen persicun** is a popular and widely known house plant.

This comprehensive book covers all aspects of the genus and is beautifully illustrated with watercolors by Mary Grierson. This book is a 'must' for anyone interested in cyclamen.

THE WORLD IS MY GARDEN by Polly Park. 1988. Kangaroo Press (distributed by ISBS, Portland, OR 97213). 120 pages, 7" x 10", hardcover. $24.95.

Polly Park has created five different styles of gardens in her home in Canberra, Australia. Gardens which she visited in India, China, Japan, Iran, Brazil, Italy, and Morocco were her inspiration. This is a book that reads like a travel guide, but also imparts much valuable knowledge of good garden design.

Gardeners will find this a relaxing and delightful book.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF CUT FLOWER CARE by Mary Jane Vaughan, 1988. Christopher Helm, London, and Timber Press, Portland, OR 97225. 145 pages, 7 5/8" x 10", hardcover. $27.95 ($3.00 shipping).

This book was written for the professional florist but has sections on home care.

The proper care for over 250 types of cut flowers and cut foliage are briefly described with botanical names given, and excellent black and white sketches.

This would be a valuable source book for anyone interested in prolonging the life of cut plant material. It should be in every flower arranger's library.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RHODODENDRONS HYBRIDS by Peter A. and Kenneth N.E. Cox. 1988. Timber Press, Portland, OR 97225. 318 pages, 6 3/8" x 9 5/8", hardcover. $59.95 ($3.00 shipping).

Rhododendron Fanciers will welcome this comprehensive and authoritative encyclopedia. Name, parentage, hardiness, flowering time, mature height, and critical comments are given. Over 90 new rhododendron hybrids were registered in the R.H.S. Yearbook for 1986-87. Many are not suitable for various reasons, so this guide could be of value in helping one select a plant suitable for their garden.

Over 2,000 garden-worthy hybrids are described. All are considered to have promising long-term futures and have been tested. There are over 200 color photographs.

THE WREATH BOOK by Bob Pulleyn. 1988. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY 10016. 144 pp, 9" x 10¼", Hardcover $19.95.

'Tis the season! This beautifully illustrated book features easy-to-follow instructions on wreath construction. Traditionally, they were part of the holiday decorations, but wreaths can be made of a variety of materials for every season and for any room in the house. The book is full of useful information on drying, preserving, and preparing materials and has many other valuable and helpful ideas. This is a fun book!

Reviewed by Mary Lou Orphey

BONSAI DESIGN JAPANESE MAPLES by Peter D. Adams, 1988, Sterling Publishing Company, Inc. 2 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. 7½ x 10½ in. 128 pages Paperback $17.95. U.S. $24.95 Canada.

This detailed book describes special techniques used in the development of Japanese Maple bonsai.

The numerous diagrams and photographs provide the visual detail so necessary in explaining the structure, form and refinement of image that produces superior bonsai. The text is clearly written and includes the horticultural preferences of Japanese Maples as bonsai.

FLOWER ARRANGING AUSTRALIAN NATIVES AND HOW TO GROW THEM by Barbara Coates. 1988. Distributed by ISBS, 5602 N.E. Hassalo Street, Portland, Oregon 97213-3640. 7½ x 9 3/4 in. 112 pages. Hardback. $22.95.

Practical guidelines abound in this informative book on using Australian natives in flower arrangements, when to pick them, air-drying, use of desiccants and glycerine, pressing flowers and arranging dried flowers. There is advice on how to create flower arrangements; making a triangle, round bowl arrangements, decorating driftwood, making a flower basket, or horizontal table centerpiece, and arrangements for special occasions. Find out how to add that "professional touch" with bows, wire and parafilming techniques.

The cut flower potential of Australian natives is specifically written for Australian gardeners and includes flowering time, cut flower potential, life span of the cut flower, and stalk length. Information on planting and fertilizing (don't use fertilizers with a high phosphorous content -fish emulsion or Osmocote are good choices) may be relevant to American gardeners.

DESERT IN BLOOM, Featuring Flora & Cacti of the Desert Southwest, edited by David L. Eppele, Arizona Cactus & Succulent Research, Inc., 8 Mulberry Lane, Bisbee, Arizona 85603. 7 x 10 in. 34 pages. Paperback. $5.00

Brilliant, fragile blooms such as Mexican goldpoppy, lupine, prickly pear cacti, owl clover, desert primrose, sand verbena, and others, provide a striking contrast to the stark landscape of the deserts.

Vibrant photographs of deserts in bloom capture the essence of its beauty in this attractive paperback.

EPIPHYLLUM by Marga Leue, 1987. Published by Marga Leue. Send to Holger Leue, 315 Cypress Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. 8¼ x 11¼ in. 120 pages. hardback $34.00+ $3.00 shipping & handling per book. (California residents add applicable sales tax.)

This exquisite art book is a joy to see - vivid photos of epiphyllums at the peak of bloom.

The forward gives credit to Bob & Lois Burks of Califronia Epi Center in Vista for the use of their plants.

An index gives the name of the hybridizer and size of bloom for each epiphyllum included in the book. There are also details on care and fertilization, pests and diseases, and propagation.

CHINESE BAMBOOS BY Chen Shou-Liang and Chia Liang-Chi, 1988. Dioscorides Press, Inc., 9999S.W. Wilshire, Portland, Oregon 97225. 9¼ x 11½ in. 120 pages. Hardback $39.95.

The book contains 23 genera, 90 species, 8 varieties and 6 forms of bamboo found today in China. There are at least two color photographs of every species — one showing new growth, and another showing its value in the natural landscape. The text describes the species, and explains how it is used.

It would seem that bamboo is to Asia what forests are to America; sources of construction material, shelter, and appreciation for its beauty. Bamboo shoots are popular as tender vegetables (most varieties, however, are too bitter). The most common variety in America, Fishpole Bamboo, is crafted into fishing rods, walking sticks, umbrella handles, fan handles, and pipe stems. Gardeners have used the Fishpole Bamboo for plant supports.

Botanists, horticulturalists, botanists, and anyone interested in bamboo will enjoy this colorful book.

GROWING ACACIAS BY Marion H. Simmons 1987. Distributed by ISBS, 5602 N.E. Hassalo Street, Portland, Oregon 97213-3640. 7 x 9½ in. 72 pages. paperback. $12.95.

Why grow Acacias? "Acacia species are selected particularly for their ability to fix nitrogen in the soil, their tolerance of infertile soils, their ability to re-shoot after having been harvested, and to produce a worthwhile amount of timber quickly." They can be used in the garden as feature or background plants, as windbreaks, and erosion control on hillsides. Their drought tolerance is of particular interest to anyone concerned with water shortages.

Why read this book? There is concise information on propagation, maintenance, Acacias for special places (containers, windbreaks, coastal planting, for arid land, and damp soils). Photographs show Acacias in full bloom. The description of species is helpful in determining which ones would be suitable; however, not all varieties are available outside of Australia.

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Compiled by Penny Bunker

BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

clean up plants — remove all dead leaves and wood.
give your favorite mulch as a top dressing.
water only as needed; keep the planting medium moist, but not wet; it can be dry during November and December months.
spray for any mildew.
continue feeding lightly.
protect potted plants from any heavy rains that can wash out soil and expose the roots.
be vigilant for insects; spray for mealybugs and other pests.
let tuberous plants die back -- put aside and let rest; sprinkle occasionally.

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

cut down watering, but watch dormant trees. They need more water, but keep only moist, not wet. Do not water trees in freezing areas.
prune black pines by cutting the candles about half length.
remove any leaves or fruits from deciduous trees.
keep deciduous trees protected from sudden changes of temperature.
do not transplant trees.
consider grafting conifers.

BROMELIADS Mary Siemers

allow plants to rest.
do not water as often when the weather turns cool.
stop fertilizing your plants during fall and winter months except those kept in a greenhouse.
check plants for snails and slugs; distribute bait around the base of the pot.
leave offshoots on the mother plant; they survive winter better.
space your plants apart to allow adequate air circulation to prevent scale.
cut dead leaves to keep plants clean at all times.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Joe Betzler

remember to allow winter dormant plants to rest as they have stopped growing. Can resume watering and feeding those that are showing signs of new growth.
watch cuttings and new seedlings. If growing, allow them to continue, but beware of fungi and other pests.
clean all leaves, old branches, and flower buds from plants; also clean up the garden and greenhouse.
make sure any protective covering from last year is functioning properly. If plastic is degrading or fiberglass cracked -- replace as necessary. Some succulents do not tolerate winter rains.
repot root-bound plants.

CAMELLIAS E.C. Snooks

start applying gibberellic acid for early and larger blooms. Don't treat over 10% of buds on any plant.
check for mites; the most obvious will be red spider mites, but check for bud mites as well. Can use a systemic miticide.
fertilize with a low nitrogen fertilizer such as a 0-10-10 or 2-10-10.
apply chelated iron, preferably with zinc, if not applied earlier. This will give intensified color to blooms, especially reds.
watch watering; camellias do not like getting dry.
start to replant or transplant as soon as the weather cools, and continue through the blooming season.
do final disbudding as soon as possible. Leave only 1 bud per growth tip, or even fewer per branch for show quality bloom.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

cut old stalks that are brown and dead to about 12 inches from ground.
leave tubers in the ground to harden off unless rains are heavy and drainage very poor; then lift the clumps.
allow the plants to go dormant by withholding water and fertilizer.
allow the clumps to dry before placing in storage.
store in vermiculite or other medium in a protected area.
apply soil sulphur to any cuts made. If dividing, be sure to leave one "eye" in each division.
identify each tuber as it is tucked away, by tagging.

EPIPHYLLUM (Orchid Cactus) Frank Granatowski

protect plants from exposure to the elements. Frost, hail, hard rains, and strong winds can cause irreparable damage.
Over exposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as hot summer sun.
withhold fertilizers especially those

containing nitrogen — allow the plants to become semi-dormant.
maintain good grooming of plants. Prune out dead, unsightly, and non-productive branches to conserve the plant's energy.
transplant into larger containers those plants that are not expected to bloom next spring.
bait for snails and slugs. A few granules of sluggeta at the base of the container have proved to be effective control and leave little or no residue.

FERNS Ray Sodomka
take off "pups" from staghorn — mount them as they are starting to show growth now (the pup should be at least 2", fronds about three inches long).
water if it does not rain. Check plants under cover or hidden.
be alert for dry, hot winds; do not allow plants to dry out.
plant spore, and keep in a warm area.
protect plants at night in any frost areas. Cover with newspaper or old sheets, or place in garage.
be alert for insects — slugs and snails are native.
fertilize with one-quarter strength liquid or the slow release pellets and/or granules.
check containers to be sure planting mix is at proper level.

FUCHSIAS William Selby
do some heavy pruning in mild areas or in greenhouses. Can make cuttings if good tips available. Might experiment with hard wood cuttings.
feed lightly all plants that have been cut back with a balanced fertilizer.
water and feed plants regularly; even in cool weather the plants still need some food and water. Do not keep wet.
clean plants; remove dead leaves, blooms, and other debris from pots, baskets, and around plants in the ground.
protect from heavy rains if they arrive.
protect from frost and cold winds in areas where required.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums) Carol Roller
water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
continue feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies. Long term pellets may be used instead.
continue a pest control and disease prevention program, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.
continue pruning any plants which have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on every stem of regals, scented, and similar types. Lanky plants which were pruned earlier can be cut back again to produce more compact plants.
tip pinch plants which were pruned earlier in the season.
make cuttings from the prunings. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.
give plants temporary shelter from freezing, if temperatures fall too low.
continue to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

GESNERIADS Michael Ludwig
watch for any late dry hot winds and keep plants watered.
prepare all plants for winter dormancy. Those with rhizomes and tubers can be uprooted and stored in small baggies.
place columneas, nematanthus, and streptocarpus outdoors in a partially sheltered area; protect especially from frost. Keep new growth arrested to prevent frost damage.
order next year's plants and supplies to get the best plants, as they are sent on a first come, first served basis.

IRISES (San Diego — Imperial Counties Iris Society)
clean beds of dead leaves and weeds; aphids winter-over in debris filled areas.
spray for aphids or give a light feeding with a systemic fertilizer which gets rid of all sucking plant pests.
make a final planting of bearded type, spurias, Louisianas, and Siberians.
plant bulbs of Dutch, English, and Spanish varieties for spring bloom.
feed tall-bearded a balanced organic fertilizer. Give Japanese and Louisiana irises an acid type (camellia food is convenient).
water spurias regularly until well established.
set up a good watering program. Give the Louisianas and Japanese a wet swamp-like condition. Spurias and beardless like it damp but not swampy. Bearded irises need alternate soaking and drying to force root growth.
move and replant Pacific Coast natives in late December. Be sure the little white roots are showing before moving. Water well until they are established.

ORCHIDS Charlie Fouquette
feed Cymbidiums a 10-30-20 fertilizer.
lightly feed Cyprepediums and Phalaenopsis. They have no storage for water; keep them moist.

try some Grow More fertilizer.
feed Cattleyas with a 18-18-18 formula.
let deciduous Dendrobiums go dormant for 4-6 weeks (just mist very lightly).
clean greenhouse glass or plastic. We need as much light as possible.
check heaters for leaks in gas lines (use soapy water — watch for bubbles). Make sure vent pipe has outward flow of waste gasses. This means if we have gasses going up the pipe, we have a vent open somewhere.
clean debris and spread snail and slug bait.
carefully stake up new spikes of Cymbidiums.
give all areas as much air movement as possible.
repot Cattleyas that have finished blooming, if they have new lead and roots. Otherwise, wait until later.
do not let Equitant Oncidiums get wet and stay that way overnight. Try raising them in winter under clean protection, southern exposure, dampen in morning, dry by nightfall. If temperature might drop to freezing, don't water at all.
watch any salt build-up in soil mediums. If you do not modify the water, thoroughly leach your plants.

ROSES Frank Hastings
discontinue fertilizing.
water roses every two weeks, more often if soil starts to dry out.
leave spent blooms on plants to induce dormancy.
remove plants that will be replaced.
prepare new beds for bare-root plantings next year.

VEGETABLES
plant, for a second planting if not done already, plants of broccoli, celery, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, lettuce, and spinach.
remember that seeds of any kind will germinate slowly and poorly during cold, short days, and might be lost in decay if the soil becomes too wet by rains.
plan to plant roots of artichoke, rhubarb, asparagus, and bareroot plants of cane varieties, strawberries, grapes, and deciduous fruit trees after the holidays. Prepare the soil for these early as possible by mixing in organic matter. Organic matter should be in small pieces so it will mix well with the soil and decay faster. If soil is adobe or clay, use some gypsum.

GREEN THUMB Penny Bunker
prepare and enrich your soil, preparing now for the bareroot plantings of roses, trees, etc. in late December and January.
feed bird-of-paradise. Cut out leaf growth from clumps to improve appearance.
plant bulbs for spring color: daffodils, ranunculus, anemones, scillas, Dutch iris, lilies. Tulips and hyacinths may be planted after Thanksgiving.
apply dormant oil sprays in December, to control pests and disease next year.
prune and shape holly and pyracantha when cutting berries for Christmas decorations.

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The Ferti-Pill #6 -	for container and house plants.

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1988 INDEX

AUTHOR INDEX

ARMSTRONG, W.P.
The Calimyrna Fig and It's Wasp 79:5:135
ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS
Gather Ye Rose Hips 79:2:57
BEALL, GARY
Poisons Lurk Among Some Posies 79:4:118
BAILEY, VALERIE ANN
The Epiphyllum 79:3:71
BURTON, CHRISTINE M.
Some More Hoyas for Your Hanging Basket 79:1:12
BARRETT, PAT
Geranium Show 79:3:92
CASPE, MARC S.
No-Cost Bathtub Water 79:5:145
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog on California Plants 79:5:140
CALIF. ASSN. OF NURSERYMEN
Consider a Living Christmas Tree 79:6:167
If It Isn't Sand, Does It Really Drain? 79:1:29
Marigolds Brighten the Landscape 79:3:89
Many Uses for An Old Herb 79:4:114
CALIF. LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS ASSN., INC.
California's Top-rated Residential Landscape 79:3:85
Having Your Landscape Done? 79:4:112
Choose a Tobiro — Many People Do 79:5:143
CASTERLINE, JO
Datura Meteloides 79:6:167
Natives in an Exotic Garden 79:4:108
The Wildflower Gardens 79:3:89
CHAFFIN, LAURIE
How to Grow Miniature Roses 79:6:168
CRALLE, DOROTHY
How to Grow Miniature Roses 79:6:168
CORDAS, LOWELL
Saratoga Horticultural Foundation 79:6:189
DOCOG, ANGELICA M.
Christmas Tree Recycling Program 79:1:11
DRAKE, CYNTHIA
How To Deal With Pet Damage 79:1:15
DUNN, DOROTHY
The Agaves & Yuccas of Baja Calif. 79:6:178
Crassulas 79:5:148
The Succulent Jatrophas 79:3:84
The Succulent Senecios 79:1:7
DAVIS, MELBA
Poinsettia, Past, Present and Future 79:6:162
New Uses for An Old Herb 79:4:114
Choose a Tobira — Many People Do 79:5:143
ENGLE, MARGARITA MONDRUS
Lawn Water Conservation 79:3:82
EPPELE, DAVID L.
Cactus Jelly Is A Gift 79:6:172
GONSALVES, BARNEY
What's Bugging You? 79:1:16
GUNTHER, BILL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
Library Foundation 79:5:153
HARWELL, EDALEE
Begonia Birthday 79:6:173
HILL, JACKIE
Sea World Names New Director 79:1:25
HORWITZ, ROBERT D.
Callas 79:5:130
Cymbiduim Propagation Using Back Bulbs 79:6:170
JACOB, HAZEL
Our Namesake Plus 46 Years 79:6:174
JACOB, IRENE
Forgotten Immigrants 79:3:88
JONES, BARBARA S.
Dates 79:1:6
JERRIS, WALTER V.
Four More Dual Role Trees 79:4:110
LAPICK, F.P.
San Diego's Original Cactus Club 79:2:48
LARSEN, POP
Shade Plants 79:6:166
Spray Away Your Garden Pests 79:2:54
Growing Vegetables 79:4:115
Types of Shovels 79:6:176
LATHERS, CHAROLETTE
Trapping a Garden Gopher 79:2:56
LIEVENS, BRIAN
Bananas 79:3:78
LUU, HA TRONG
It Is Not A Weed 79:4:116
MARTIN, CINDY
Roses for a Moonlit Night 79:5:151
MACY, ELEANOR
Peas 79:2:39
MAR VISTA RANCH NURSERY
Surinam Cherry 79:5:142
MAHALIK, PAUL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
MAURO, ANDREW A.
1988 Del Mar Fair Flower and Garden Show 79:2:46
Olivenhain Gardens Top Winner 79:5:139
MURAOKA, KEITH
Twisted Trees 79:4:102
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU, INC.
Wildflowers 79:2:50
Squash 79:3:71
Dahlia 79:4:104
POWELL, C.C.
Prevention and Control of Root Rot Diseases 79:1:10
ROHLFES, LARRY
Cut Your Landscape Water Use 79:5:144
ROBERTS, LAURIE
Drought Tolerant Plants Garden 79:1:14
ROBINSON, CHARLES
Sweet Potato Spice Cookies 79:6:169
ROLLER, CAROL
Go For The Goldens 79:3:66
James Schultz Award Presented to Penny Bunker 79:5:143
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CA ASSN NURSERYMEN
Plants for Security 79:1:22
SAVIO, YVONNE
Poisons Lurk Among Some Posies 79:4:118
SIGG, PATT
Build a Better Bloomer 79:1:8
Datura Meteloides 79:6:167
Natives in an Exotic Garden 79:4:108
The Wildflower Gardens 79:3:89
STUMBOS, JOHN
UC Funds 19 Projects for Research 79:5:150
THOMPSON, MILLIE AND ED
The Thompson Begonia Museum Closed 79:1:29
TOLEN, HARRY
Growing Orchids Outdoors in San Diego County 79:2:40
TOPHAM, ELSIE
Floral Library 79:2:45
Floral Library 79:5:143
Floral Library 79:5:153
TRICKEL SOAK SYSTEMS
Awards 79:3:85
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
Love Stamp Issuance 79:5:130
UNKNOWN
Catalog of Landscape Records 79:4:109
Ethel Hoyt Memorial Scholarship Fund 79:5:156
WIGAND, JUDY
Penstemons 79:4:121
WILDERS, TINEKE
Cyclamen 79:1:23
WRIGHT, DICK
Jewels of the New World 79:4:98
ZIEBARTH, PAT
Exotic Wildflowers of England 79:2:52

BOOK REVIEWS

Books reviewed by Bill Gunther, Barbara S. Jones, Mary Lou Orphey, and Harry Tolen

ADAMS, PETER D.
Bonsai Design Japanese Maples 79:6:180
ADEN, PAUL
The Hosta Book 79:4:121
AGNELLI, MARELLA
Gardens of the Italian Villas 79:1:24
BARNES, DON
Daffodils for Home, Garden, and Show 79:2:58
BECKETT, ELSPETH
Wild Flowers of Majorca Minorca Ibiza 79:5:152
BRIGHT, ROBERT EMMETT
Gardens of the Italian Villas 79:1:24
BUCZACKI, STEFAN
Conran's Basic Book of Home Gardening 79:3:86
BURY, JOHN
Gardening in Spanish and English 79:3:86
BUSKE, TERRY
Llewellyn's 1988 Moon Sign Book & Gardening Guide 79:1:24
CARLEY, RACHEL
The Backyard Book 79:4:121
CHARLESWORTH, GEOFFREY B.
The Opinionated Gardener 79:3:87
CLARK, DAVID
Pelargoniums 79:6:180
COATES, BARBARA
Flower Arranging Australian Natives and How To Grow Them 79:6:180
COURTRIGHT, GORDON
Trees and Shrubs for Temperate Climates 79:5:153
COX, KENNETH N.E. & PETER A.
Encyclopedia of Rhododendrons Hybrids 79:6:180
CRIBB, PHILLIP
The Genus Paphiopedilum 79:1:24
DRANSFIELD, JOHN
Genera Palmarum 79:5:153
ELLIOT, RODGER
Pruning, A Practical Guide 79:3:87
EPPELE, DAVID L.
Desert in Bloom 79:6:181
FELL, DEREK
Garden Accents 79:2:58
FIALA, JOHN L.
Lilacs, the Genus Syringa 79:6:180
FITTER, ALASTAIR
New Generation Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain and N. Europe 79:4:120
FOERSTER, KARL
Rock Gardens Through the Year 79:3:87
FOLEY, TRICIA
The Backyard Book 79:4:121
FORQUET, FEDERICO
Gardens of the Italian Villas 79:1:24
FOX, DEREK
Growing Lilies 79:3:87
GALLE, FRED
Azaleas 79:4:120
GALLUP, BARBARA
The Complete Book of Topiary 79:4:120
GIBSON, MICHAEL
The Rose Gardens of England 79:5:152
GREY-WILSON, CHRISTOPHER
The Genus Cyclamen 79:6:180
HARKNESS, PETER
Modern Garden Roses 79:5:152
HERTERICH, WILLIAM
The Huntington Botanical Gardens 1905-1949 79:4:120
HEYNE, GLEN & PETA
Exotic Plants for Your Garden 79:2:58
KOHLEIN, FRITZ
Iris 79:4:121
KORFF, E. MICHAELOB
Herbs 79:1:25
LANCASTER, ROY
Garden Plants for Connoisseurs 79:3:88
LEUE, MARGA
Epiphyllum 79:6:181
LIANG-CHI, CHIA
Chinese Bamboos 79:6:181
LYNCH, NANCY
The Old-Fashioned Garden 79:1:24
MITCHELL, ALLAN
The Trees of North America 79:2:58
MUENSCHER, WALTER CONRAD
Weeds 79:2:58
NEWNES, MARY
Arranging Everlasting Flowers 79:1:25
PARK, POLLY
The World is My Garden 79:6:180
PHILLIPS, ROGER
Roses 79:4:120
PIETROMARCHI, LUCA
Gardens of the Italian Villas 79:1:24
PULLEYN, BOB
The Wreath Book 79:6:181
REICH, DEBORAH
The Complete Book of Topiary 79:4:120
RENTOUL, J.N.
The Specialist Orchid Grower 79:1:24
RICE, GRAHAM
Plants for Problem Places 79:4:120

RIX, MARTYN
Roses 79:4:120
ROSE, GRAHAM
The Romantic Garden 79:3:86
RUSHFORTH, KEITH
Conifers 79:1:25
SHOU-LIANG, CHEN
Chinese Bamboos 79:6:181
SIMMON, MARION H.
Growing Acacias 79:3:86
Growing Acacias 79:6:181
SPENCER, ROGER
Growing Silver, Grey & Blue Foliage Plants 79:3:86
STREET, JOHN
Rhododendrons 79:5:152
SUTHERLAND, STRAUAN K., DR
Hydroponics for Everyone 79:3:88
THORPE, PATRICIA
The American Weekend Garden 79:3:87
UHL, NATALIE
Genera Palmarum 79:5:153
VAUGHAN, MARY JANE
The Complete Book of Cut Flower Care 79:6:180
WARREN, E. J. M.
The Country Diary Book of Creating A Butterfly Garden 79:4:120

ILLUSTRATION INDEX

GABER, SUSAN
Orchid 79:2:40
HENRY, SUSAN
Poinsettia 79:6:161
HOLLISTER, S.
Manzanita 79:4:108
Datura Meteloides 79:6:167
HORWITZ, ROBERT D.
Calla 79:5:130
Cymbidium 79:6:170
Backbulb 79:6:170
KERSHNER, MELINDA L.
Geranium 79:3:65
Rose 79:2:33
LARSEN, POP
Types of Shovels 79:6:176
MAGELLAN, MAURO
Johnny Jump-Up 79:2:50
MCMULLEN, MICHAEL
Parable 79:4:97
SNITSLAAR, MICHAEL
Cyclamen 79:1:23
UNKNOWN:
Begonia 79:1:29
Bugs 79:2:54
Dogs 79:1:15
Epiphyllum 79:3:71
Flowers 79:1:8 & 79:4:119
Fuchsia 79:1:19
Garden material 79:2:62
Geranium 79:3:66 & 92
Lupine 79:4:118
Parrot Tulip 79:2:63
Penstemon 79:4:121
Prevent Burglaries 79:1:22
Rosehips 79:2:57
Trees 79:1:11, 4:112, 113
Vegetables 79:4:115
Wildflowers 79:3:89

NOW IS THE TIME INDEX

79:1:26-27
79:2:59-61
79:3:90-92
79:4:122-124
79:5:154-156
79:6:182-184
BASKERVILLE, LES — Camellias
BETZLER, JOEY — Cactus and Succulents
BUNKER, PENNY — Compiles Now Is The Time, Vegetables, & Green Thumb
FOUQUETTE, CHARLIE — Orchids
GRANATOWSKI, FRANK — Epiphyllums
HASTINGS, FRANK — Roses
JANSEN, ABE — Dahlias
KELLY, WARREN — Epiphyllums
LEE, MARGARET — Begonias
LUDWIG, MICHAEL — Gesneriads
MARKOWITZ, DR. HERBERT — Bonsai
ROLLER, CAROL — Geraniums
SAN DIEGO IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY — Iris
SELBY, WILLIAM — Fuchsias
SIEMERS, MARY — Bromeliads
SNOOKS, E.C. (Gene) — Camellias
SODOMKA, RAY — Ferns
THROMBLEY, FRANK — Cacti and Succulents

PHOTO INDEX

ARMSTRONG, W.P.
Calimyrna Fig and Wasp 79:5:135—138
CALIFORNIA ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
Poinsettia 79:6:162
CORDAS, LOWELL
Lowell Cordas 79:6:189
Joe Solomone 79:6:189
EPPELE, DAVID L.
David L. Eppele 79:6:172
GLOVER, WILBUR
Crassula 79:5:149
Flower Arrangements 79:4:109, 5:139, 144
GUNTHER, BILL
Brahea Edulis 79:5:146
KEMPER, GLORY A.
Box Elder 79:1:1
LAPICK, F.P.
Agave 79:2:49
Cactus 79:2:48
LUU, HA
Ha Luu, Botanist 79:4:116
MURAOKA, KEITH
Twisted Trees 79:4:102
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU
Dahlia 79:4:104, 105
Squash 79:3:72
SEA WORLD
Susan Locke 79:1:25
U.S. POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON D.C.
Rose Love Stamp 79:5:129
UNKNOWN
Rose 79:5:151
Vegetables 79:5:140
ZIEBARTH, PAT
Date Festival 79:1:6
Poinsettias 79:6:162

SUBJECT INDEX

AIR
CALIF AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog on Calif Plants 79:5:140
ANNUALS
CALIF ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
Marigolds Brighten the Landscape 79:3:89
CASTERLINE, JO AND SIGG, PAT
Datura Meteloides 79:6:167
CALIF AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog on Calif Plants 79:5:140
AWARDS
CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR'S ASSN
California's Top-Rated Residential Landscape for 1987 79:3:85
MAURO, ANDREW
Olivenhain Gardens Top Winner 79:5:139
ROLLER, CAROL
James Schultz Award Presented to Penny Bunker 79:5:143
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
California Garden Award 79:4:99
Ethel Hoyt Memorial Scholarship Fund 79:5:156
TRICKLE SOAK SYSTEMS
Thomas F. Strong 79:3:85
BAMBOO
LARSEN, POP
Shade Plants 79:6:166
BEGONIAS
HARWELL, EDALEE
Begonia Birthday 79:6:173
JACOB, HAZEL
Our Namesake 79:6:174
THOMPSON, MILLIE AND ED
The Thompson Begonia Museum Closed 79:1:29
BULBS
HORWITZ, ROBERT D.
Callas 79:5:130
SIGG, PATT
Build a Better Bloomer 79:1:8
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC.
1988 as the Year of the Dahlia 79:4:104
CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS
DUNN, DOROTHY
Crassulas 79:5:148
The Agaves and Yuccas of Baja 79:6:178
The Succulent Jatrophas 79:3:84
The Succulent Senecios 79:1:7
EPPELE, DAVID L.
Cactus Jelly is a Gift 79:6:172
LAPICK, F.P.
San Diego's Original Cactus Club 79:2:48
WRIGHT, DICK
Jewels of the New World 79:4:98
CLUBS
HARWELL, EDALEE
Begonia Birthday 79:6:173
JACOB, HAZEL
Our Namesake plus 46 Years 79:6:174
LAPICK, F.P.
San Diego's Original Cactus Club 79:2:48
ROLLER, CAROL
James Schultz Award 79:5:143
CONSERVATION
ENGLE, MARGARITA MONDRUS
Lawn Water Conservation 79:3:82
DAHLIA
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC
1988 as the Year of the Dahlia 79:4:104
DATES
JONES, BARBARA S.
Dates 79:1:6
DISEASES
ARMSTRONG, W.P.
The Calimyrna Fig and Its Wasp 79:5:135
GONSALVES, BARNEY
What's Bugging You? 79:1:16
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC
Squash 79:3:72
POWELL, C.C.
Root Rot Diseases 79:1:10
EPIPHYLLUM
BAILEY, VALERIE ANN
The Epiphyllum 79:3:71
FERN
LARSEN, POP
Shade Plants 79:6:166
FESTIVAL
JONES, BARBARA S.
Dates 79:1:6
FLORAL LIBRARY
GUNTHER, BILL
Library Donation 79:5:153
TOPHAM, ELSIE
Floral Library 79:2:45, 5:143, 153 79:6:171
FRUIT
ARMSTRONG, W.P.
The Calimyrna Fig and Its Wasp 79:5:135
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog on California Plants 79:5:140
JERRIS, WALTER V.
Four More Dual Role Trees 79:4:110
JONES, BARBARA S.
Dates 79:1:6
LIEVENS, BRIAN
Bananas 79:3:78
MAR VISTA RANCH NURSERY
Surinam Cherry 79:5:142
FUCHSIAS
GONSALVES, BARNEY
What's Bugging You? 79:1:16
GARDENS
CASTERLINE, JO
Natives in an Exotic Garden 79:4:108
HILL, JACKIE
Sea World 79:1:25
JACOB, IRENE
Forgotten Immigrants 79:3:88
JONES, BARBARA S.
Dates 79:1:6
MAURO, ANDREW
Gardens of San Diego 79:2:46
MURAOKA, KEITH
Twisted Trees 79:4:102
SIGG, PATT
Natives in an Exotic Garden 79:4:108
THOMPSON, MILLIE AND ED
The Thompson Begonia Museum Closed 79:1:29
ZIEBARTH, PAT
Exotic Wildflowers of England 79:2:52
GERANIUMS AND PELARGONIUMS
BARRETT, PAT

Geranium Show 79:3:92
ROLLER, CAROL
Go for the Goldens 79:3:66
GRASS
LUU, HA TRONG
It Is Not A Weed 79:4:116
HERB
DAVIS, MELBA
New Uses For An Old Herb 79:4:114
HISTORY
ARMSTRONG, W.P.
The Calimyrna Fig and Its Wasp 79:5:135
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog on California Plants 79:5:140
DUNN, DOROTHY
The Agaves and Yuccas Of Baja 79:6:178
The Succulent Jatrophas 79:3:84
The Succulent Senecios 79:1:7
HARWELL, EDALEE
Begonia Birthday 79:6:173
GUNTHER, BILL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
JACOB, HAZEL
Our Namesake plus 46 Years 79:6:174
JONES, BARBARA S.
Dates 79:1:6
LIEVENS, BRIAN
Bananas 79:3:78
MAHALIK, PAUL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
MURAOKA, KEITH
Twisted Trees 79:4:102
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC.
Dahlia 79:4:104
Squash 79:3:72
ROLLER, CAROL
Go For The Goldens 79:3:66
SIGG, PATT
Build a Better Bloomer 79:1:8
WRIGHT, DICK
Jewels of the New World 79:4:98
HOUSEPLANTS
HORWITZ, ROBERT D.
Callas 79:5:130
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU
Dahlia 79:4:104
HOYAS
BURTON, CHRISTINE M.
Some More Hoyas for Your Hanging Basket 79:1:12
DAVIS, MELBA
Choose a Tobira — Many People Do 79:5:143
IRIS
ROBERTS, LAURIE
Drought Tolerant Plants Garden 79:1:14
LANDSCAPE
CALIFORNIA ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
Marigolds Brighten the Landscape 79:3:89
CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION INC.
California's Top Rated Residential Landscape 79:3:85
Having Your Landscape Done? 79:4:112
DUNN, DOROTHY
Crassulas 79:5:148
The Succulent Senecios 79:1:7
ROHLFES, LARRY
Cut Your Landscape Water Use 79:5:144
UNKNOWN
Catalog of Landscape Records 79:4:109
LAWN
DRAKE, CYNTHIA
How to Deal With Pet Damage 79:1:15
ENGLE, MARGARITA MONDRUS
Lawn Water Conservation 79:3:82
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC.
Wildflowers 79:2:50
ROHLFES, LARRY
Cut Your Landscape Water Use 79:5:144
MEDICINE
LUU, HA TRONG
It Is Not A Weed 79:4:116
NATIVE PLANTS
CASTERLINE, JO
Natives in an Exotic Garden 79:4:108
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC.
Wildflowers 79:2:50
ROBERTS, LAURIE
Drought Tolerant Plants Garden 79:1:14
SIGG, PATT
Natives in an Exotic Garden 79:4:108
ORCHIDS
TOLEN, HARRY
Growing Orchids Outdoors in San Diego County 79:2:40
HORWITZ, ROBERT D.
Cymbidium Propagation Using Backbulbs 79:6:170
PALM
GUNTHER, BILL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
MAHALIK, PAUL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
PERENNIALS
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog on California Plants 79:5:140
LARSEN, POP
Shade Plants 79:6:166
LIEVENS, BRIAN
Bananas 79:3:78
WIGAND, JUDY
Penstemons 79:4:121
WILDERS, TINEKE
Cyclamen 79:1:23
PERSONS
CORDAS, LOWELL
Saratoga Horticultural Foundation 79:6:189
HARWELL, EDALEE
Begonia Birthday 79:6:173
HILL, JACKIE
Sea World Names New Director of Horticulture 79:1:25
JACOB, HAZEL
Our Namesake Plus 46 Years 79:6:174
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Ethel Hoyt Memorial Scholarship Fund 79:5:156
SIGG, PATT
Build a Better Bloomer 79:1:8
PESTS AND PESTICIDES
CALIFORNIA ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
Marigolds Brighten the Landscape 79:3:89
DRAKE, CYNTHIA
How to Deal with Pet Damage 79:1:15
GONSALVES, BARNEY
What's Bugging You? 79:1:16
HORWITZ, ROBERT D.
Callas 79:5:130
LARSEN, POP
Spray Away Your Garden Pests 79:2:54
LATHERS, CHAROLETTE
Trapping a Garden Gopher 79:2:56
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC.
Squash 79:3:72
POINSETTIA
DAVIS, MELBA
Poinsettia: Past, Present, and Future 79:6:162
RECIPE
EPPELE, DAVID L.
Cactus Jelly 79:6:172
ROBINSON, CHARLES
Sweet Potato Cookies 79:6:169
RESEARCH
STUMBOS, JOHN
UC Funds 19 Projects 79:5:150
ROSES
ALL AMERICA ROSE SELECTIONS
Gather Ye Rose Hips 79:2:57
CHAFFIN, LAURIE & CRALLE, DOROTHY
How To Grow Miniature Roses 79:6:168
MARTIN, CINDY
Roses for a Moonlit Night 79:5:151
U.S. POST OFFICE
Love Stamp Issuance 79:5:130
SECURITY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
Plants for Security 79:1:22
SEEDS
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU, INC.
Squash 79:3:72
Wildflowers 79:2:50
SOIL
CALIFORNIA ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
If It Isn't Sand 79:1:29
SHOWS
BARRETT, PAT
Geranium Show 79:3:92
MAURO, ANDREW
1988 Del Mar Fair Flower and Garden Show 79:2:46
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Ethel Hoyt Memorial Fund 79:5:156
SHRUBS
CASTERLINE, JO
The Wildflower Gardens 79:3:89
DAVIS, MELBA
Choose a Tobira 79:5:143
SIGG, PATT
The Wildflower Gardens 79:3:89
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION
MAURO, ANDREW
Olivenhain Gardens Top Winner 79:5:139
1988 Del Mar Fair Flower and Garden Show 79:2:46
TOOLS
LARSEN, POP
Types of Shovels 79:6:176
TREES
CALIFORNIA ASSN OF NURSERYMEN
Consider a Living Christmas Tree 79:6:167
DOCOG, ANGELICA M.
Christmas Tree Recycling Program 79:1:11
GUNTHER, BILL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
JERRIS, WALTER V.
Four More Dual Role Trees 79:4:110
LIEVENS, BRIAN
Bananas 79:3:78
MAHALIK, PAUL
Brahea Edulis in the Wild 79:5:146
MURAOKA, KEITH
Twisted Trees 79:4:102
VEGETABLES
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD
The Effect of Smog 79:5:140
LARSEN, POP
Growing Vegetables 79:4:115
MACY, ELEANOR
Peas 79:2:39
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU
Squash 79:3:72
WILDFLOWERS
CASTERLINE, JO
The Wildflower Gardens 79:3:89
NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU INC.
Wildflowers 79:2:50
SIGG, PATT
The Wildflower Gardens 79:3:89
ZIEBARTH, PAT
Exotic Wildflowers of England 79:2:52
WATERING
ENGLE, MARGARITA MONDRUS
Lawn Water Conservation 79:3:82
GUNTHER, BILL & MAHALIK, PAUL
Brahea Edulis 79:5:146
MURAOKA, KEITH
Twisted Trees 79:4:102
ROHLFES, LARRY
Cut Your Landscape Water Use 79:5:144
WEED
CASTERLINE, JO & SIGG, PATT
Datura Meteloides 79:6:167

Lowell Cordas

Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, Inc.

Joe Solomone

By Lowell Cordas

The Board of Trustees of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation is pleased to announce the following two appointments:

Our New Director – Lowell Cordas

Mr. Cordas comes to us from Portland, Oregaon where for the past six years he has been the Grounds Superintendent at the University of Portland. While there, his responsibilities included grounds maintenance, garden development and management, athletic field care, underground utilities, roads, sidewalks and site work for new construction.

He has a full and varied horticultural background reflecting fruit and vegetable crop research, landscaping, nursery management, seed processing and greenhouse production.

Mr. Cordas has an active involvement in the industry. In Oregon, he was the Co-founder and first President of the Association of Oregon Gardens, the Vice President of the Oregon Camellia Society, a member of the Grounds Maintenance Committee of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, served on the Advisory Board for Horticulture/Floriculture at Clark College and taught at the Community College level. And that commitment continues here in Gilroy, California where he serves on the Advisory Committee for Agriculture/Horticulture at Gilroy Unified High School.

Our New Research Horticulturist – Joe Solomone

Propagator, grower, nurseryman and landscaper, Mr. Joe Solomone brings a lifetime of experience to his new position. He has been a leader in the nursery industry since the early 1950's. His activities in this field are noteworthy: serving on the Board for the Pacific Horticultural Trade Show, is the Second Vice President of the International Plant Propagator's Society, a member of our Board of Trustees and a member of the Advisory Board for the North Monterey County High School District. This is in addition to his many years involvement with the California Nurserymen's Association.

Best known for his keen eye for new plant introductions, his nurseries have given us **Ceanothus** 'Snow Flurry', **Eucalyptus gunnii, Grevillea** 'Aromas' and **Eucalyptus nicholii.** Mr. Solomone has also been instrumental in popularizing many species and varieties of plants including **Dampiera, Scaveola** and **Hardenbergias.** He was one of the first perennial growers to recognize the potential for 4" color spots.

"I am very happy to be here. I have lots of faith in the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation and I want to do what I can to secure its future. I am most thankful for the opportunity to continue my search for new plant material for California", states Mr. Solomone.

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159 Druil Way
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La Mesa, CA 92041, 9:30 a.m.

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230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 2 p.m.

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7575 Conestoga Way
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SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL HORTICULTURISTS
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4th Mon., Casa del Prado Rm 104, 7:30 p.m.

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1st Fri., at 222 Jefferson St., Vista Senior Service Center, 12 noon

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GREEN PLANET, THE STORY OF PLANT LIFE ON EARTH. Ed. David M. Moore. All color. 288 pp. (Japan). Table top – 8 5/8 x 11¼ inches. $15.98.

TROPICAL QUEENSLAND. By Stanley and Ray Breeden. Vol. 1 of a Natural History of Australia. Black/White/Color. 262 pp. Reprinted 1982 (Hong Kong). Table top – 9 3/4 x 12¼ inches. $25.00.

IRIS. Fritz Kohlun. 1987. Portland, Oregon. 210 color photos. 7 x 9 inches. $37.95.

LILACS. Fr. John L. Fiala. 1988. Stunning and incredibly complete. All aspects of horticulture and botany covered. 266 pp. 398 color photos. 8¼ x 11¼ inches. $59.95.

FIELD MANUAL OF FERNS & FERN-ALLIES OF THE U.S. & CANADA. D. Lillinger. 341 species illustrated by 402 color photos. 7 x 10 inches. 389 pp. Some culture data. Smithsonian. Paper $25.00. Bound $49.50.

Books

THE ORCHID. Peter Hunt. First published Great Britain, 1978. This edition, New York, 1987. 170 superb photos in full color by Takoshi Kyima of Japan, taken in North and South America, Australia, Africa, Hawaii, Indonesia, Malaysia. Table top – 10¼ x 13¼ inches. Regular $50.00. On sale for $25.00.

THE WORLD OF BAMBOO. Photos by Shinji Takama, Japan. Boxed. Very large, photographic art in full color. 236 pp. Table top – 10½ x 14 3/4 inches. $75.00.

DRAWN FROM NATURE – THE BOTANICAL ART OF JOSEPH PRESTELS & HIS SONS. By Charles Van Ravenswaay, Smithsonian, 1984. Many colored photos of these 19th Century American Artists. 357 pages. $50.00.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ORCHIDS OF MEXICO. Leon A. Wiard. 300 close-up photos of 154 species commonly found wild in Mexico. Descriptions, culture. 8 5/8 x 11¼ inches. 239 pages. $75.00.

PLANTS OF THE BIBLE. Michael Zohary. 1982. Cambridge University Press. 7 x 9 3/4 inches. 223 pp. $19.95.

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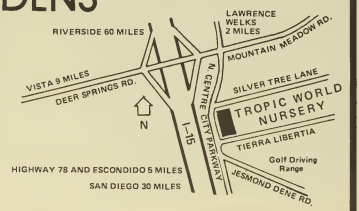
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